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Toxin Cleanup Deadline Issued

By Peter Galuszka

Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

A Hanover County chemical waste disposal facility with a history of environmental violations has been ordered to prepare plans to clean its storage areas and soil of hazardous wastes by March 1 or face stiff fines.

Liquid Waste Disposal Inc., which has handled millions of gallons of chemical wastes since it was formed in 1971, must submit the plans to the State Water Control Board and state Health Department or face fines of up to \$10,000 a day, according to an injunction handed down by Circuit Judge Richard H.C. Taylor.

The company will comply with the order and "we will conform with regulations," said Eugene T. Rilee Jr., the firm's president. He is a former Henrico County supervisor.

The site will not be used after March 1, Rilee added. "We are looking for another one."

Rilee declined to say what types and quantities of hazardous materials are still at the facility, which was the scene of a solvent spill into a tributary of the Chickahominy River in 1979. The company also was cited in 1977 for dumping phenols, a hazardous waste, into the Henrico sewage system.

A "Little Left Over"

"There may be some little [waste] left over," Rilee said, adding, "I'm only a stockholder. I am only listed as the president."

Water board officials have contended that the site is a repository for a wide variety of hazardous wastes, including toxic and possibly carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls, who in industry has been banned by the federal government.

The injunction, which was sought by the state attorney general's office, directs the firm to cooperate with the two state regulatory agencies in their studies of soil contamination.

The company also must submit a plan by March 1 to the water board and Health Department outlining how it will carry out "an acceptable procedure" for promptly disposing of or otherwise acceptably dealing with all hazardous materials in the soil or in drums on the site.

The plan must show how the firm will remove PCBs and other hazardous materials, including pesticides, from the soil.

The plan then must be executed and paid for by Liquid Waste Disposal.

If the company fails to carry

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Poison Cleanup Deadline Issued

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out the requirements, the court has the power to place the company in receivership and levy fines of \$10,000 a day, court records show.

Dr. Wladimir Gulevitch, director of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Division of the Health Department, said his department does not know exactly what hazardous materials are on the site. He said he understood that some chemicals were in the soil and some were in 55-gallon drums.

No, cleanup plan has been submitted to the Health Department, he added.

He said he was told that the company's lease had expired and it would have to vacate the site. Rilee declined to comment on why the firm would not use

the site after March 1.

State water officials have said that the firm has violated a water discharge permit it got in 1979.

The water board entered into a consent order with Liquid Waste to clean up the site, but the company failed to comply, officials said.

The firm at one time handled 3,000 to 5,000 gallons of liquid wastes a week from various industries. Some were mixed in an 18,000-gallon tank and then burned.

A variety of wastes has been handled there, including some suspected of causing cancer, such as toluene, benzene and PCBs.

The facility could be in jeopardy from floods because it was poorly located, officials have said.

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